

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 2, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Specification has been amended to modify language concerning the subject application's priority claims. Claims 1 - 18 have been cancelled. New claims 19 - 34 have been added to clarify the subject matter that is sought to be patented.

It is believed that the within claim amendments render moot the Examiner's comments at numbered paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action; accordingly, Applicants will direct no further remarks thereto. Additionally, no prosecution history estoppel results from the within claim amendments because these amendments are being made to clarify the claimed subject matter.

No new matter is believed to have been added to the subject application as a result of the within claim amendments. Support for the within claim amendments may be found at, inter alia, page 15, line 8 to page 25, line 11 of the Specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected combinations of claims 1 - 18 under 35 USC § 103 as being rendered obvious by various combinations of Heil et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,374), Chow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,349), Yu (U.S. Patent No. 6,351,775), and Isaak (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,247). As stated above, claims 1 - 18 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 19 - 34. Accordingly, the Examiner's remarks concerning claims 1 - 18 will be redirected to new claims 19 - 34. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 19 - 34 are patentably distinguished over the combinations of prior patents proffered by the Examiner.

Heil discloses a technique for accelerating input/output (I/O) between host bus adapters in a clustered computer network. Chow et al. and Yu disclose techniques for identifying data objects in storage systems. Isaak discloses a technique for certifying authenticity of digital

objects. Significantly, Isaak does not disclose or suggest a technique for authenticating a request to access an object.

Suffice it to note that no combination of the aforesaid prior patents can be said to disclose or suggest the invention of Applicants' new independent claims. For example, in contrast to the aforesaid prior patents, Applicants' new independent claim 19 recites:

A method comprising:

determining by a selected one of a plurality of control nodes, whether a client request to access an object is authentic, the determining being based upon whether a first certificate matches a second certificate, the first certificate being obtained from the client request, the second certificate being calculated based upon an encoded request from the client request;

if the selected one of the plurality of control nodes determines that the client request is authentic, determining, by the selected one of the plurality of control nodes, one of a plurality of storage nodes in which the object is located; and

retrieving the object from the one of the plurality of storage nodes. (New independent claim 19).

The other newly added independent claim (claim 27) contains limitations that are similar, in substance, to the limitations of independent method claim 19. This specific combination of features of Applicants' claimed invention is nowhere disclosed or suggested by any combination of the prior patents relied upon by the Examiner, and result in advantages that cannot be achieved by the arrangements disclosed in said prior patents. For example, although the claims are not limited to or by the embodiments disclosed in the Specification, in the context of one such embodiment, the above claim features permit this embodiment to operate in a manner that is different from, and achieve advantages not achieved by, the arrangements disclosed in these prior patents. See, e.g., Specification, page 15, line 8 to page 25, line 11.

For these reasons, among others, it is respectfully submitted that no combination of these prior patents renders obvious the newly added claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the

Examiner's aforesaid rejections of the claims as being rendered obvious by various combinations of Heil, Chow et al., Yu, and Isaak have been overcome.

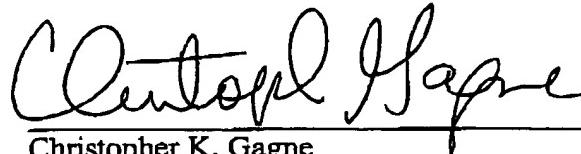
In the event that the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in the further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 480-715-4055.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

7/22/04



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